

Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development ▶ Sullivan County Industrial Development Agency ▶ Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce ▶ Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association ▶ Sullivan County Democrat



Children's Specialty Hospital right here in Sullivan County

BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

Complex disabilities in young children, such as autism, are often misdiagnosed, mistreated, and misunderstood.

The Center for Discovery (TCFD) is hoping to help change that with the construction of a Children's Specialty Hospital right here in Sullivan County, a long-time vision of TCFD CEO Patrick Dollard, with the help of a \$35 million dollar low-interest loan from the Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"This hospital is so necessary," stated Michael Rosen, TCFD Executive Vice President of Marketing and Strategic Communications, "and CEO Patrick Dollard has wanted to get this started for over a decade.

"The majority of the funding is coming from that loan, but we have had immense support from Senator

[Chuck] Schumer from the beginning for this project as well," Rosen said. "When we broke ground this year, Senator Schumer was right there with us."

Construction of the Children's Specialty Hospital at TCFD began this past summer, with hopes of having it completed by the end of next year or the Spring of 2023.

"It's actually the old [Frontier] insurance building that's off of Route 17," explained Rosen. "So it's a very recognizable building in the area. It's going to be completely transformed and reinvented."

The hospital will provide specialized assessment and short-term care for children with complex disabilities, like autism, along with support and training for families, caregivers, and even their school districts, allowing children to transition back to their home and into their communities

Construction on the old insurance building in Rock Hill began at the beginning of the summer and will hopefully be completed by the end of next year or the Spring of 2023.

The background rendering shows what the completed Children's Specialty Hospital will look like from the outside, able to be seen from Route 17.

with tools to succeed and thrive.

"It's not a traditional children's hospital that you would go to for appendicitis or broken bones, it's an assessment hospital," explained Rosen. "For so long, families didn't have a place to turn to for first hints or first diagnosis when their child had a problem.

"This will be a cutting edge place for parents and families to turn to for treatment," he said. "Parents can be

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Destination, Development, Diversification

To the People:

Sullivan County has long been a destination for a variety of interests. Be it a second home, an outdoor excursion, hunting, or visiting signature properties like our famed Catskill Hotels in years past, or now Bethel Woods, Resorts World, Kartrite, Eldred Preserve and other boutique locations, the term 'Destination' remains.

While the reasoning for visiting or deciding to live here has remained the same for all of my lifetime – that is to enjoy and partake in the natural beauty of our area – the pursuits are different today.

The escape from the chaotic city environment to more natural surroundings while familiar, is done with a different expectation today than in years past.

Now it is the quality of the experience that is of utmost importance, not just entertainment or 'getting away' that matters.

From eateries featuring locally sourced goods, to higher quality resort stays and outdoor activities that

focus on health and wellbeing, the Sullivan Catskills as a destination has evolved.

The market is responding.

While the Covid-19 pandemic saw a dramatic spike in real estate sales and folks visiting Sullivan County to seek a safe haven, this new destination transformation had been occurring well before the pandemic hit, albeit at a slower pace.

Nevertheless, it is here and growing.

Development has responded to this new trend with a variety of new projects recently opening, approved or in process. The projects are split equally between locally driven investments and new attractions.

There is a natural balance occurring with some planting roots with new projects and others digging deeper and investing more in our community.

The many Foster Supply Hospitality locations like Kenoza Hall and the Arnold house among others, and the Eldred Preserve project underscore a local investment push to revive storied properties at the end of their life cycles, transforming them into fresh



CEO/President Marc Baez

new high-end destinations.

Outside investors are busy as well. The opening of Seminary Hill Cidery, the recent approval of the @Woods Rural Tech Retreat in Bethel and the Beside Habitat Outdoor Reserve project now in process, bring external investment into the Sullivan Catskills with a similar theme; to bridge humans with nature for overall health, wellbeing, and productivity. These projects are environmentally friendly with small footprints yet exhibit a tremendous upside from an Economic Development perspective.

This area of development is expected to continue its growth, further enhancing the tourism sector of our economy. While these important developments are welcome others are needed.

Sullivan County continues to exhibit a tourist heavy economy. While this is very welcome, particularly when money is spent in Sullivan County from external origins, it comes at the expense of being subject to natural, market and political forces that could negatively impact a healthy tourist-based economy in an instant.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From page 2E

Surely the Covid-19 pandemic has shown us that. Add to it changing weather patterns that in recent years have devastated property, through flooding, wind, snow events and power outages and one can see that we are poised to take another hit at any given moment. It is just a matter of time.

The long fight for casinos, (some argue the victory a little too late), or simply the 'Not In My Back Yard' stance taken by some toward seemingly almost every project these days, reveals politics can show its ugly side and how decisions as a result can impede development for decades and have a devastating economic impact on local businesses and communities.

Diversification is key to helping withstand events, whether natural or political that can impact an economy by spreading the risk throughout multiple industry sectors.

While one sector may be affected by an incident others may continue on, keeping people employed, producing products and/or services until recovery can begin. We

saw this during the pandemic, where virtually every sector was shut down but for goods producing, distributing, healthcare services providers, and other essential industry sectors, which not only continued, but also thrived.

The point here is while we are experiencing new investment in tourism, our core industry sector, it is important to diversify into other sectors for a more stable growth trajectory.

This strategy provides for tax ratables in areas that need it most while growing a middle-class workforce. Sectors like light manufacturing, logistics, construction, food production and others can be a hedge against forces natural or otherwise that can negatively impact our core industry sector.

If we stay on course focusing on destination, development, and diversification we can achieve the optimal balance to grow our economy.

Sincerely,



Marc Baez
President, Sullivan County
Partnership

Where should Move Sullivan go next?

Survey asks public to weigh in on expansion of bus service

Due to increasing interest in the Move Sullivan public transportation service, Sullivan County leaders are planning to add stops and/or hours.

"The Tentative 2022 County Budget includes an additional \$200,000 for an expansion of hours and/or routes," noted Sullivan County Manager Josh Potosek. "We want to prioritize that expansion where there's the greatest demand."

"So we've created a survey to gauge the thoughts and feelings of both riders and riders-to-be," added Commu-

nity Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley, who oversees the popular bus service. "We did a similar survey two years ago that helped us determine where best to expand this service, and I hope many people share their thoughts with us again."

The eight-question survey can be completed anonymously at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8TTR3Z. Answers will solely be used to determine the future growth of Move Sullivan. Those who do and do not ride the bus service are welcome to respond.

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Above: Renderings show what the completed vision for various rooms within the hospital will look like.

Right: The hospital has had immense support from Senator Chuck Schumer from the beginning, including getting his hands a bit dirty during the ground-breaking this past summer.

HOSPITAL

From front page there visiting regularly, working with their child and the staff, developing a treatment plan that's devised by The Center for Discovery so that their child can go back home."

According to Rosen, there is only one other hospital that does this short-term assessment and that's Kennedy Krieger Hospital outside of Baltimore – a daunting distance to some families.

"This will be a statewide facility," explained Rosen. "Anyone from all around NY state can come here for services and a treatment plan. The earlier you get in and the earlier you can help people, the greater chance they have for long-term success. It's very needed and we're very excited about it."

An important resource

The hospital, once completed, will not be open to the general public though. Anyone being admitted into the hospital must first be referred and approved by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Once approved, children with OPWDD can be admitted to the facility for up to a maximum of six months.

The hospital will ensure that families have the necessary tools to stay together



er longer, that caregivers have a better understanding of how to help and manage their patients, and that school districts have a comprehensive plan on how to educate children with complex conditions, helping them develop a broader range of functional skills to succeed.

"Sullivan County is going to be the leader statewide for people to get early diagnosis, and to get help for any family who is in crisis," Rosen stated. "It will focus mostly on young children

with autism but there will be a medically fragile wing for children with other disabilities."

400 new jobs on the way

And, according to Rosen, this facility will save the state millions of dollars by reducing the need for long-term residential care as well as create about 400 new jobs in the area – doctors, nurses, therapists – along with experts in agriculture and farmers.

"Everyone at the facility will be fed with food that is grown in the gardens

and greenhouses on site," Rosen said.

The hope is that this statewide model could be expanded and replicated nationwide, creating a link that could benefit millions of people and transforming the standard of care in the country.

"Everything we do is a summary of our organization as a whole – including nutrition, education, music and recreation therapy," added TCFD Director of Marketing Courtney Scott-Gold. "It's our model."

Sullivan Catskills continues to stay strong

... getting great publicity in many publications

BY ISABEL BRAVERMAN
BRAND AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
SULLIVAN CATSKILLS VISITORS ASSN.

Even with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Sullivan Catskills shows no signs of slowing down.

Numerous businesses have opened in 2021 and the SCVA saw a growth in membership, adding over 100 new members this past year.

"This has been an exciting year

despite the hardships the pandemic has brought for both businesses and individuals," stated SCVA President/CEO Roberta Byron-Lockwood. "The hospitality industry has seen wonderful new additions with The Eldred Preserve and Callicoon Hills as well as many short-term rental properties for visitors to come stay and enjoy all we have to offer."

Adding more accolades this year, Travel and Leisure named the Sullivan Catskills one of the "50 Best Places to Travel" in 2021.

In June, Travel and Leisure named Livingston Manor and Narrowsburg to their list of the Best Small Towns in New York State (with fewer than 10,000 residents).

"Now more than ever, travelers are seeking places with a low population density and easy access to the great outdoors," Travel and Leisure wrote. "From quaint downtown areas to rolling horse farms to pure wilderness, these New York towns are ideal for peaceful weekend trips and balance-restoring getaways."

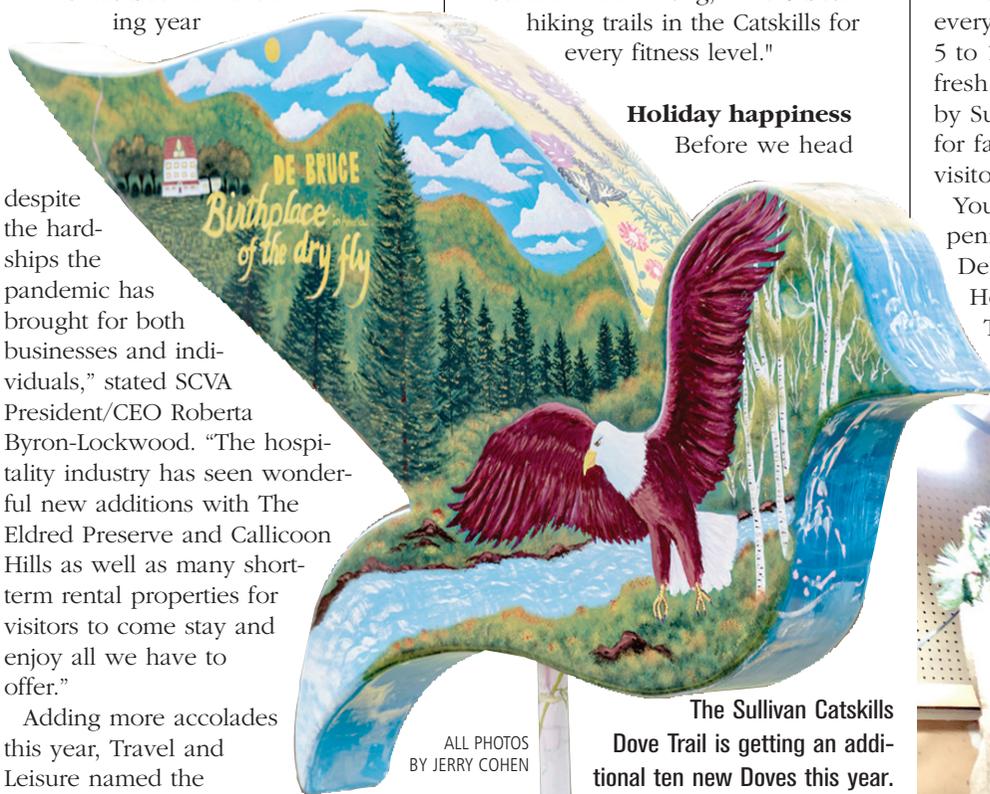
Stop by Duke Pottery for some holiday shopping.

Far right: It's important to shop local during the holiday season; pick up some warm goodies from Buck Brook Alpacas.



And in October, Lonely Planet named Beer Mountain at Upward Brewing Company and the Tusten Mountain Trail among, "The 8 best hiking trails in the Catskills for every fitness level."

Holiday happiness
Before we head



ALL PHOTOS
BY JERRY COHEN

The Sullivan Catskills Dove Trail is getting an additional ten new Doves this year.

into the New Year it's time to celebrate the holidays. The SCVA is once again partnering with Bethel Woods Center for the Arts to present Peace, Love & Lights. Now bigger and better than last year, the 1.7-mile trail dazzles with holiday-themed light displays.

The drive-thru experience runs every night through January 2 from 5 to 10 p.m. On Mondays enjoy the fresh air with a walk-thru presented by Sullivan 180. This event is perfect for families and attracts thousands of visitors from near and afar.

You can find many holiday happenings such as Dickens on the Delaware in Callicoon, the Holiday Hub at Bethel Woods, The Farmhouse Project Holiday Market, and so much more.

Successful campaigns

The SCVA is keeping the ball rolling with marketing and advertising outreach, coming off of a successful fall television campaign that reached over ten thousand households.

Currently a winter TV campaign is running on both cable and digital outlets, again reaching thousands of viewers in the New York City and Tri-State areas.

Local hotels and lodging partners are presenting special winter packages that are currently highlighted on the SCVA website.

"We want travelers to come stay here in the Sullivan Catskills this winter," said Byron-Lockwood. "Our top-tier accommodations will suit anyone, whether they are looking for a full-service resort or cozy bed and break-



fast. We expect to see an increase in room tax numbers for 2021 that we see continuing through 2022.”

Shopping local

’Tis the season to shop local. Not only will you find unique and hand-crafted gifts, but also you will be supporting the local community. Every dollar spent goes back to our

neighbors.

The SCVA has many member businesses that can offer something for everyone on your holiday shopping list, from beautiful pottery, to clothing, to locally-sourced craft beverages.

As always, please visit the SCVA website at www.sullivancatskills.com to find out more, or call the office at 845-747-4449.



Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is holding Peace, Love & Lights again this year, with brilliant holiday light displays!



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Technology helping Garnet to provide better healthcare services

BY JONATHAN SCHILLER,
MS, FACHE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GARNET HEALTH MEDICAL
CENTER - CATSKILLS

Four major advancements in technology designed to improve our community's access to excellent care have recently been made at Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills.

First is the all new Garnet Health App recently launched and available through Google Play and the Apple App Store.

When uploaded onto your smartphone, this App supports patients to access their own medical records, schedule doctors appointments, participate in telemedicine visits with their doctors, pay bills and research news items.

This App was developed with patient input, is very user friendly, and is 100 percent free for all to use. In a time when we're all looking to be more efficient with our

time, this is an easy one for all to take advantage of, and stay connected from anywhere.

The second significant development is the implementation of our Telemedicine service. This service has grown exponentially as we work hard to bring access to specialists to our community residents.

The use of telemedicine or telehealth technology, which has been much more widely accepted during the Covid-19 pandemic, has removed the barrier that our rural communities often experience when seeking access to specialists.

While most doctors will require an in-person initial encounter, much follow-up can be done via telemedicine. The early data suggests that patient compliance with keeping follow-up appointments significantly increases with the use of telemedicine.

Within the hospital, there are many specialists that are utilizing the telehealth technology, and two that have brought significant benefit

to our patients include telestroke and telepsychiatry.

Through telestroke, patients experiencing signs and symptoms of a stroke can be assessed by a board certified stroke neurologist within minutes of arriving at the Emergency Department.

The stroke neurologist can then direct life-preserving interventions instantly, without any delays.

Similarly, time is of the essence for patients experiencing a mental health or psychiatric crisis. Fortunately, with our telepsychiatry service, patients have access to a board certified psychiatrist 24 hours/day, to complete patient assessments and guide the patient and the care team and establish the patient's care plan.

The final two significant advances this year are the implementation of state-of-the-art imaging equipment, specifically, 3-D mammography as well as a DEXA scan machine.

The 3-D mammography unit will help us detect breast cancers earli-



JONATHAN SCHILLER

er, giving patients the potential to access treatment earlier in their illness, thereby reducing the morbidity and mortality from breast cancer in our County.

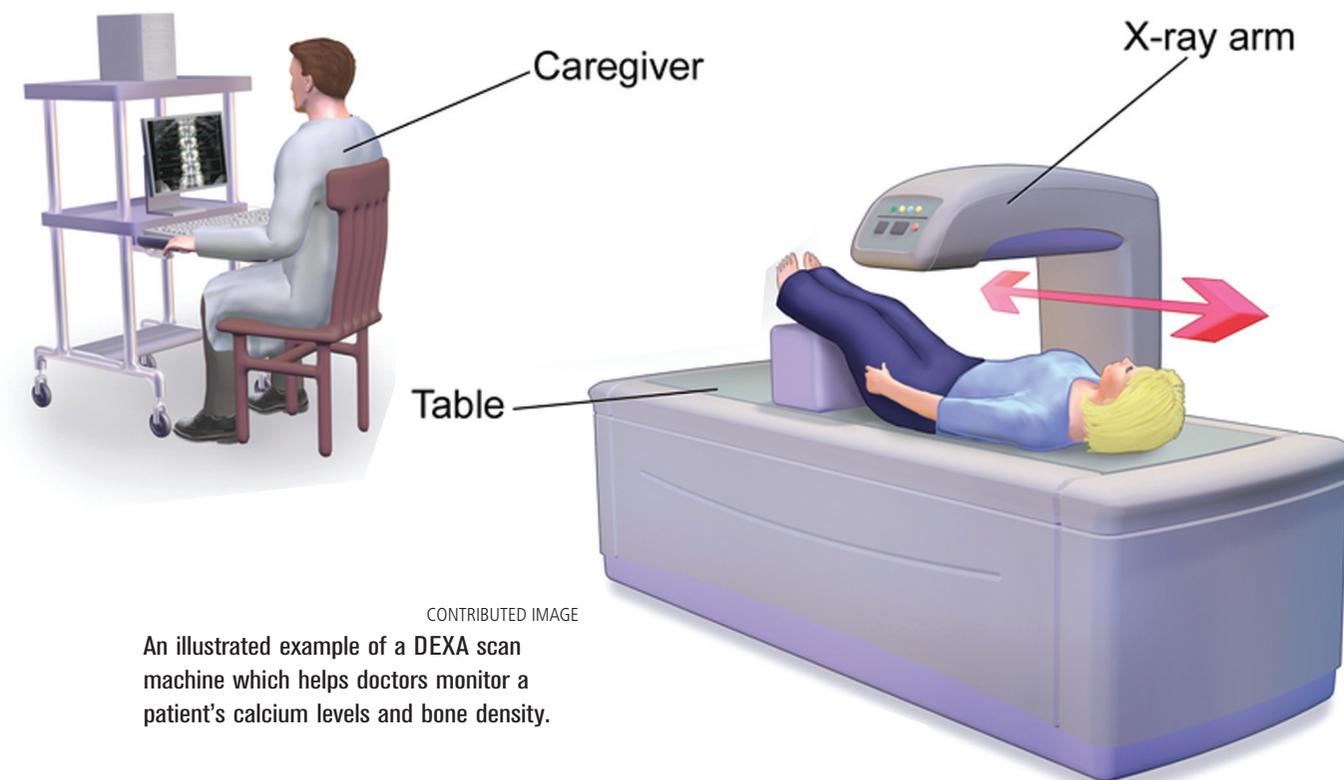
The DEXA scan unit, used to measure the calcium and other minerals in our bones, helps clinicians monitor and trend a patient's bone density as we age.

These four technological advances at Garnet Health will help improve access to care, and in the long term, the health of our community. The research and advances in clinical technology that the next generation of clinicians – and patients – will benefit from are underway now... and the future of how great those advances will be is exciting.

Even with all the research and development – from surgical robots to pharmacogenetics – none of it will be a suitable replacement for the experienced, skilled people that provide the actual care to our Community.

Now, more than ever, is an exciting time to pursue a career in healthcare. Providing care to our fellow humans is a truly noble pursuit, and serving in a healthcare organization is one way to do that.

If you've ever thought that you somehow wanted to be involved, but weren't sure what was right for you, reach out to us to explore the great opportunities!



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

An illustrated example of a DEXA scan machine which helps doctors monitor a patient's calcium levels and bone density.

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Why 'Shop Small Sullivan' is a big deal

BY JAIMIE SCHMEISER
PRESIDENT AND CEO
SULLIVAN COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Small businesses faced extraordinary challenges this past year. From a global pandemic and business closures to implementing

new ways to serve their customers with the safety of all involved, many small businesses were forced to tap into their reserves to remain open.

That in itself posed a problem because of a lack of reserves.

According to JP Morgan Chase, "The median small business holds 27 cash buffer days in reserve. Half of all small businesses hold a cash buffer of less than one month.

"Moreover, 25 percent of small businesses hold fewer than 13 cash buffer days in reserve."

That means over 50 percent of small businesses wouldn't last over a month on their reserves.

Add to that the employee shortage, supply chain issues, and the costs of everything increasing, and some small businesses may feel they are on the brink of extinction.

What we can do to help

Our small businesses in 2021 (and

beyond) need more than one day to show our support. They need an entire season, they need entire year-round support!

That's why the Sullivan Chamber of Commerce is encouraging our chambers of commerce, business associations, neighbors, business owners, and community leaders to support the call to action to Do Something Big and Shop Small this holiday season and shop small Sullivan all year long!

How to Participate in Shop Small Sullivan

There are many ways for you to support Shop Small Sullivan. Some of these include:

§ Visit www.catskills.com to see a list of small businesses in Sullivan County offering holiday specials.

§ Visit and patronize small businesses in Sullivan County.



Les Kristt, left, and Gene Kelly own Kristt Kelly Office Systems in Monticello and are not only big supporters of the Sullivan County Chamber but also small business owners in Sullivan County.

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The Secret Garden in Jeffersonville, owned by Sue Bodenstein, is the quintessential small business, with a local owner, local employees and a vibrant and ever-changing inventory to meet the shopper's needs.

§ Talk (and post) about your favorite businesses.

§ Be sure to add #scnychamber #shopsmallsullivan to your posts, images and blog posts.

REMEMBER: Small Business Saturday is a good thing, but supporting small business isn't just a day, it's a lifestyle.

This year—and all subsequent ones, if you ask us—let's celebrate a season of small, a season of local-Shop Small Sullivan!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Even Santa believes in supporting local business. Here the employees of Ragtime Clothing Exchange in North Branch greet Santa during last year's holiday shopping season. Go on over to North Branch to see what great offers the store has this year.

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Keeping clients and property protected a big part of Atlas Security Services' business

BY FRED STABBERT III

Not many businesses can say they've never closed for business – not for a single day.

But such is the case for Atlas Security Services of Goshen, which opened its doors in 1992 and has never stopped working for its clients for a second.

The company was founded by retired New York State Trooper Matt Ventura 29 years ago.

"We are open 24/7," VP Scott Perry, who is a co-owner of Atlas with Ventura, said. "We have a real commitment to our clients and we've never closed for a single moment – not New Year's Eve, not Christmas,

never."

This kind of great customer service has earned Atlas Security a solid reputation in the business community and helped them as they expanded their business into the entire Hudson Valley.

"Ninety percent of our business is prevention," Perry said. "If you have a security guard and a security vehicle at a site, criminals are more likely to go to a location less secured."

Perry said that from his experience – which includes being a retired Sgt. from the NYPD – if a company puts a guard on site, criminals are not going to hit that site.

"We've secured billions of dollars worth of property," Perry said.

That includes such building sites and buildings as Mediacom, Legoland, and Resorts World Catskills, to name but a few.

Perry also said that Atlas Security has worked closely with Emerald Green residential development through the years, addressing a lot of issues for them, including unauthorized swimming in the lake and patrolling the development to keep it safe.

The security business is actually a customer service business, according to Perry, and if it is not done correctly could have an adverse affect on business.

"Many times security guards are the first people customers meet when entering a business," he said. "It's a very important interaction with clients. Our staff has to provide excellent customer service."

"People are welcoming guards

more and more every day," Perry said. "From COVID screening, doing security and making sure people follow rules."

In fact, some Atlas Security personnel can be found at Tri-Valley Central School in Grahamsville, Sullivan County BOCES in Liberty and also at municipal buildings, corporate headquarters and warehouses throughout the Hudson Valley.

"Over the years we've steadily grown," Perry said. "Today we employ 200 security guards and 150 work in the Hudson Valley."

All guards are screened and hired according to state required guidelines and Perry said many of his staff are retired law enforcement and former military.

"We also do have entry level guards and people from all walks of life," he said. "From young people to retired. With overnight and weekend work available it is also a great job

Please see **SECURITY**, page s14E



At left: Atlas Security Services works at construction sites across the Mid-Hudson to ensure that only those people needing access are admitted.

Above, Atlas Security Vice President Scott Perry, left, and President Matt Ventura review a new job.



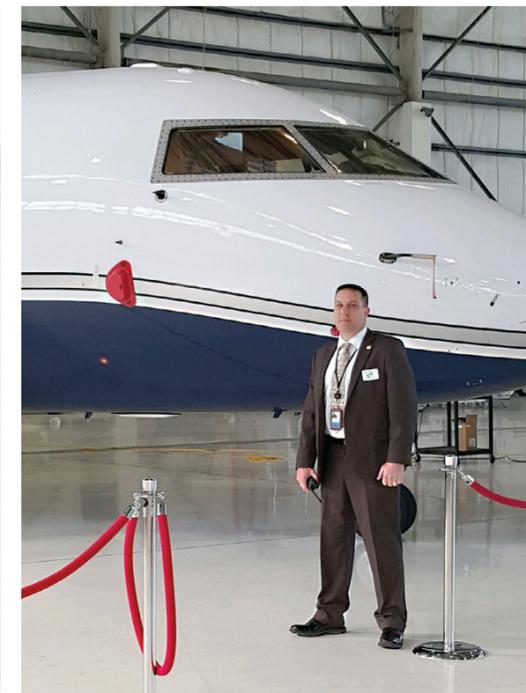
Above right: Atlas Security's headquarters are in Goshen but their 200-person workforce is deployed throughout the region, including Sullivan County.

Top right: Having security guards at events gives festival goers a sense of safety and also helps with keeping people informed and attending the proper locations of your



Right Atlas Security will come to your site to set up the proper security protocols.

Far Right: Securing expensive property is all in a day's work for employees of Atlas Security.



SECURITY

From page 13E

for students.”

As a new member of the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development, Perry said he finds the organization extremely helpful.

“It is a great way for us to meet decision makers,” he said. “They

host really good events – like the one at Eldred Preserve and most recently at Resorts World.

“We primarily deal with business to business so the Partnership is an excellent fit for us,” he said. “In fact we just joined on the Gold Level.”

Atlas Security is also mobile, with a fleet of 8 vehicles, including 4-wheel drive SUVs.

Perry said they are good for patrolling construction sites where there is no structure yet. Atlas will also occasionally make bank deposits and provide escort for customers who need that service.

While working around the clock

can be challenging, Perry and his staff don't mind.

“It's good, you are making money every day,” he said with a laugh.

And his favorite day?

“This is not the business for anyone interested in excitement,” he said. “We want as boring a day as possible. When nothing happens, we're happy.”



At left: Atlas Security uses the latest technology to assist customers in keeping their property and location safe.

Above: Working at events also includes keeping traffic moving smoothly.

At right: Dressing professionally is the first step in exceptional security. Offering great customer service is also an integral part of Atlas Security's offerings.



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What is the current state of Real Estate in Sullivan County?

**BY JONATHAN SUNSHINE
ASSOCIATE BROKER,
THE SUNSHINE GROUP
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PRESIDENT, SULLIVAN COUNTY
BOARD OF REALTORS**

In two words... Still Strong. While sales have slowed slightly, real estate in Sullivan County is still relatively strong.

It's frustrating, not only for agents but more for ready willing and able buyers, when you can't find them a property that doesn't say "accepted offer".

If you were one of those lucky buyers who got in early and won the bid and already have equity in your home... Bravo.

Sullivan County's October residential sales were approximately

109 homes ranging in price from a \$25,000 handyman to a \$1,450,000 single-family lakefront with a guest cottage.

Inventory is shrinking by the minute. Anyone who was thinking of selling should know that now is a really great time to pull the trigger, especially if you own a home with a water feature, specifically lakefronts which are at a premium.

Sullivan County has historically been a summer and second home market "but times, they are a-changing*".

Covid created work-from-home opportunities, and with the relative proximity to the metropolitan area Sullivan County has become a year-round primary home destination.

Consequently, new businesses of all types are sprouting up around the county in response to the influx

of new residents.

What used to be a very laid-back rural area is changing with the times and change effects almost everything.

While retail or "storefront businesses" are important they are not the only change necessary. The need for tradespeople like plumbers, electricians, carpenters, painters, handymen, etc., are as important as the retail side of the equation.

The problem is not selling the homes, the problem becomes finding the trades people to update, fix, build, and service what was purchased. The equation must be balanced for the market to continue to thrive.

Partnership is helping

The Sullivan County Partnership



JONATHAN SUNSHINE

for Economic Development is working hard to make Sullivan a destination for corporations focusing on expanding or relocating.

While higher-end homes are flying off the shelves, not all home buyers are in that market.



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Developers are needed who are willing to build mid-range, affordable single-family homes.

Things attractive to those buyers are an open floor plan, two-to-three bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement, a garage, and energy efficient.

If Sullivan is to compete in the corporate frontier, it is imperative that affordable housing along with goods and services are available for the workforce that will be needed to fulfill the needs of the corporate businesses moving here.

Tradesmen in short supply

Before 2020 if residents needed work done at home, like servicing a heating or air conditioning system, painting, or updating a kitchen or bathroom, they just picked up the phone and called their "guy".

Not any more... because 'your guy' is now too busy with their new customers, so you go on a waiting list for an appointment maybe months away. Forget about building a home.

Contractors are few and far

between and, if you're lucky enough to find one, chances are they won't be available for months, maybe even a year or more, not to mention the shortage of building materials and the increased prices.

Where to buy?

It seems areas like Callicoon, Cocheton, Narrowsburg, Eldred and other 'western end' towns and villages of the county are getting the most exposure, which resulted in a boom in home sales in those areas, but there are good houses in lesser-known areas throughout the county.

Buyers shouldn't overlook towns like Liberty, Monticello, Fallsburg, Neversink, Forestburgh, and others. Every town or village in our county has something to offer.

Buyers may overlook opportunities because they've heard something negative about a particular area. There are plenty of examples of areas all over the country that at some point got a bad rap, but areas change because people are willing

to take a chance to change them.

Sullivan County is amid a renaissance, trade in your Range Rover or fancy SUV for a pickup truck, run out and buy your plaid shirt, overalls, and Wellies but don't forget the locals, we already have them, and we already know Sullivan County is a great place to live and raise a family.

We have good people, clean air, delicious water, beautiful scenery, great rivers, lakes, streams and few traffic jams unless it's time for the cows to come back to the barn, (but a Whole Foods would be nice).

If you came here because some newspaper or magazine article declared Sullivan as the new Hampton's then your GPS failed you.

But if you moved here or are thinking of moving here to enjoy what Sullivan County has to offer, then WELCOME HOME, we can't wait to meet you!

*Bob Dylan 1964



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From left to right: Ben Gailey, Esq., Michele L. Babcock, Esq., Managing Partner and ATHENA Honoree, and Kelly Pressler, Esq. all Partners at Jacobowitz and Gubits, LLP.

Michele L. Babcock, Esq. recognized with ATHENA Award

The law firm of Jacobowitz and Gubits, LLP (J&G) is pleased to announce Michele L. Babcock, Managing Partner, was recognized with the ATHENA Award by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation during the Foundation's 15th Annual ATHENA Awards Ceremony held on December 2 at Christo's in Poughkeepsie. The firm is so proud of Michele and all she has accomplished.

Michele joined the law firm of Jacobowitz and Gubits, LLP in 2003 and became a partner in 2011. She has served as the Managing Partner since 2015. Michele primarily practices Municipal, Land Use and Environmental Law and has represented local governments and private applicants in zoning, land use and environmental permitting. "I am honored to be recognized with an ATHENA Award by the Dutchess County Chamber Foundation Board.

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Thank you to everyone who contributed to my nomination for this very prestigious recognition," said Michele L. Babcock, Esq.

Bestowed annually, the ATHENA Award is given to a member of the community who best embodies the ATHENA Leadership Model. The Model is unique in that it focuses on personal traits of strong, successful leaders. It captures the spirit and collaborative leadership style often exemplified in women leaders, while also recognizing the importance of traits such as courageous acts and fierce advocacy in the pursuit of excellence.

Michele has participated in the Pattern for Progress Fellows Program (Class of 2011), Leadership Orange (Class of 2011), and Leadership Sullivan (Class of 2018) where she served as Vice President. Michele also serves as a Board Member of Access: Supports for Living Foundation, the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Michele is currently Vice President of the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties and serves as their delegate to the Women's Bar Association of the State

of New York. She is currently serving as a member of the Business Advisory Council to the Mount Saint Mary College School of Business and a member of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Committee.

Michele received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award by the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties and the Orange County Rising Star Award in 2009. She was recognized as one of Sullivan County's Business and Professional Women of the Year in 2017 and was inducted into the Leadership Orange Hall of Fame in 2018. In 2019, Michele received the Distinguished Attorney Award from the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan Counties and was recognized as an Outstanding Women in Law by Hofstra University which recognizes and celebrates women who have made meaningful and inspiring contributions to the legal community. Most recently, Michele was also selected by Hudson Valley Magazine as a 2020 Women in Business honoree.

Michele resides in New Windsor with her husband and their three young children.

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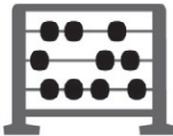
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Music Therapy programs offer 'Warm Hugs' to young and old alike

Countless studies across the world have proven the value of music as therapy. The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) says on their website, that “music therapy interventions can address a variety of healthcare and educational goals” including managing stress, alleviating pain, expressing feelings, enhancing memory, improving communication, and promoting wellness, physical rehabilitation and more.

Further information on the AMTA website offers fact sheets, resources and bibliographies for music therapy with specific populations such as those with brain injuries, addiction, behavioral health, dementia and memory disorders, hospice, pain management, neo-natal care, autism and much more.

Melinda Marks Burgard, a NYS

Licensed Creative Arts Therapist with a Master's Degree in Music Psychotherapy from NYU, has been practicing Clinical Music Therapy for over 30 years. Through Action Toward Independence (ATI), a local organization that promotes independence, inclusion, participation, and personal choice of individuals with disabilities, Melinda offers several musical therapy programs for both children and adults.

“Melinda's Music” uses her clinical skills (including her relationships with each group individual) to obtain non-musical goals, such as improving socialization, speech, fine and gross motor skills, emotional expression and obtaining a sense of calm. One of her programs – “A Warm Musical Hug,” is an early childhood therapeutic music group for ages seven weeks



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Zoom sessions reach many clients at the same time, while still allowing for active participation and feedback.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Melinda works with one of her younger clients through a Zoom session.

to five years. It's a free, interactive Zoom Music Therapy session where adults, especially new parents, are required to attend. The first half of the session enhances developmentally appropriate music activities for the child, and educates the adult how to utilize these skills for everyday purposeful play. The second half of the group focuses on verbally and musically supporting caregivers by encouraging musical activities, specifically for their individual child, toward the developmental goal. Every few months, free instruments are available- when eligible.

Other programs are: "Stand By Me" – Music Therapy and Verbal Support for "CarePartners" of people living with dementia. "Our Musical Memories" is another group available for CarePartners with their person living with dementia. The "Musical Memories" group also offers free instruments to eligible group mem-

bers.

Each of the programs are free, meet monthly and require internet access and Zoom (camera).

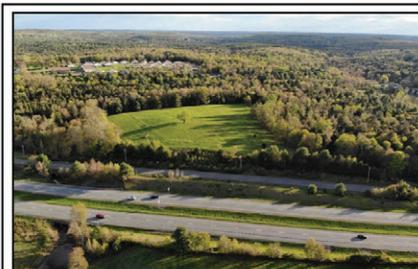
Coming up on January 7, 2022 at 2 p.m., ATI will be collaborating with the Newburgh Free Public Library for a music program for seniors living with memory loss with their CarePartners called "Beat the Winter Blues." Through this virtual program, attendees will experience how music therapy can assist in increasing cognitive, speech, motor and socialization skills, while decreasing stress and anxiety. Bring any rhythm instrument to keep the beat and "Beat the Winter Blues!"

For more information and to register for any of the programs, contact Akilah Sutphin, Family Peer Advocate at Action Toward Independence. Call her at (845) 794-4228 or email asutphin@atitoday.org.

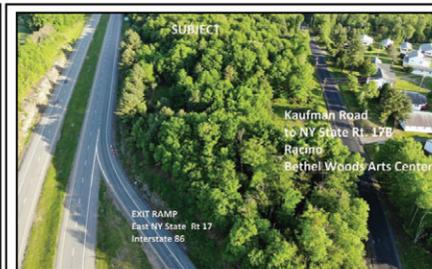
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'Earn while you learn' for high-demand jobs

BY JAY QUAINANCE
PRESIDENT
SUNY SULLIVAN

As anyone who has tried to hire a contractor knows, there is a significant workforce shortage in construction trades.

The White House's Build Back Better proposal will further increase demands for skilled tradespeople as our region addresses critical infrastructure needs.

To ensure the Catskills and the Hudson Valley have a pipeline of skilled workers, SUNY Sullivan is partnering with the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 279, to develop an "Earn While You Learn" program that ties traditional apprenticeship programs offered by the council to a SUNY Sullivan Associates degree in building trades, with an emphasis on sustainability and Green Building technologies.

This innovative program will allow participants to earn a union wage, complete the requirements of the apprenticeship and earn a college degree and be reimbursed for the

cost of tuition upon completion.

Unfortunately, the choice of pursuing a college degree or going into the trades has often been either/or. This program breaks down that needless barrier and encourages young people with the drive and desire to do both at the same time.

Part of this is to help young people and career changers realize that the trades are not the same as they were 40 or 50 years ago. These jobs are highly skilled and provide a great career path.

Participants will complete the on-the-job training and hands-on instruction at the NASRCC training facility in Orange County, for which they will also earn college credit.

They will complete the academic portion of the degree either in-person or on-line at SUNY Sullivan.

The goal for us is begin enrolling students in the fall of 2022, working closely with the local schools and BOCES to enroll a cohort of interested young people.

To provide opportunity for those who are interested in continuing their educations, we are planning an articulation agreement with SUNY Alfred State that would allow gradu-



METRO CREATIVE SERVICES PHOTO

ates to transfer there to complete a Bachelor's Degree in either Construction Supervision or Technology Management.

If you are interested in finding out more about this program please contact admissions@sunysullivan.edu.



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